GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1493
ANSWERED ON:26.07.2016
Use of GEO-SPATIAL Technology in Agriculture
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has signed any Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with ISRO to promote the use of "GEO-SPATIAL Technology" in the agriculture sector and if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor;

(b) the manner in which this technology is likely to be helpful in increasing the crop yield and the profitability of the farmers;

(c) whether the Government has taken any steps to expand the Forecasting of Agriculture Output Using Space, Agro-Meteorology and Land Based Observations (FASAL) to crops other than paddy and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether the Government has taken any steps to facilitate and support the Mahalonobis National Crop Forecast Centre in the assessment of crop loss in case of natural calamities and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

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(a): There is no formal MoU signed between Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare and ISRO. However, there is ongoing collaboration between Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and Government for use of Geospatial Technology in Agriculture Sector, including Crop Forecasting, Drought Assessment, Horticultural Inventory and Development, Technology for Crop Insurance.

(b): Geospatial technology is being used for various applications in agriculture such as crop damage assessment, crop condition monitoring, yield estimation, crop cutting experiment planning, horticultural development, identification of rice fallow areas and so on. These technologies are useful for adopting appropriate and interventions by farmers for improving their crop productivity.

(c): Yes, under the FASAL Programme, multiple season (Kharif & Rabi) production forecasts are being generated for six crops other than paddy, namely, jute, sugarcane, cotton, rapeseed

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& mustard, rabi sorghum and wheat. Additionally, pre-harvest production forecast are also being generated for potato crop under CHAMAN (Coordinated Horticulture Assessment and Management using geo-iNformatics) programme.

(d): Yes, Government has launched a Project called KISAN (C{K}rop Insurance using Space technology and geo-iNformatics) on Pilot basis for exploring the use of high resolution remote sensing data from satellites and UAVs for optimum crop cutting experiment planning, improving yield estimation and crop damage/loss assessment.

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